



Welcome to the Antidote pre-issue!

Racism and fascism are historically rooted in Canadian society. During this new period of economic hardship, however, hatred and scapegoating are increasing at an alarming rate. Tougher government legislation targets immigrants and plays off racist fears. Canadian soldiers in Somalia torture a boy to death. More promises made to the First Nations are broken. And high school students face either harassment from or recruitment by local neo-Nazi groups, the same groups that plan the assassinations of prominent members of the Jewish community.

We are a small collective of anti-fascists living here in Toronto who have decided to produce a magazine called 'Antidote'. What you have in your hands is issue #0, a small and imperfect sample of what we hope to produce - if we can raise enough money! This benefit is designed to help us get enough funds together to publish our first full-length issue sometime this spring.

We hope to cover a variety of themes in our magazine, including analyses of the far-right and systemic racism in North America, news updates from around the world, and articles on anti-fascist and anti-racist youth culture. If things go well, we hope to maintain a regular publishing schedule, so if you are able to make any sort of contribution to help us in our work, thanks a lot!



The Antidote collective - March 1994

P.O. Box 6326, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1P7



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THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH BEGINS WITH A RALLY SATURDAY, MARCH 4, OUTSIDE U OF T'S CONVOCATION HALL, 31 KING'S COLLEGE CIRCLE. SPEAKERS TAKE TO THE PODIUM AT 11:00 A.M. BEFORE TAKING TO THE STREETS TO PROTEST LIBERAL CUTS IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND WELFARE. THERE WILL ALSO BE A FAIR FROM 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. AT RYERSON IN JORGENSEN HALL, 350 VICTORIA. ADMISSION IS FREE!

Fun-da-mentally Sound

'Britain's greatest gift to the world has been the liberal democratic tradition. This country has no history of, or tolerance or capacity for, political extremism.'

- Melody Maker article accusing rappers Fun-da-mental of 'hysterical absolutism'

Over the last couple of years British alternative pop music has become increasingly concerned with political issues. The Anti-Nazi League carnival which took place earlier this year was an explicit attempt to revive the marriage of music and political activism which the Rock Against Racism movement epitomised in the seventies. But this marriage has had its problems. Throughout the eighties, the alternative music sector, covered by the papers *Melody Maker* and *New Musical Express* was largely predicated on the superiority of guitar-based rock music over dance music. This musical opposition easily slipped into a racist opposition of 'serious' 'white' music to 'frivolous' 'black' music. The most successful band to emerge from this sector, The Smiths, stated this explicitly. Ironically during this period the music papers, in the main, ignored the emergence of rap as a combination of 'serious' social comment and 'frivolous' dance music. When a reader wrote to one of the music papers asking why no black acts were featured, he was told that sales figures dropped when a black star was featured on the cover.

The repoliticisation of the alternative music press over the last few years has therefore not come easily. The attempt to provide a half-decent coverage of rap has given support to acts with an explicit anti-racist stance, such as Asian/African-Caribbean rappers Fun-da-mental, while ignoring less sensational acts. Such support is itself highly provisional as the quote above indicates. Fun-da-mental, who define themselves explicitly in terms of a 'no-nonsense' anti-racist politics and a commitment to Islam, have recently been accused of extremism. Articles on Fun-da-mental in the music papers are now peppered with ridiculous diatribes on the threat of Islam, and defences of Western values. Discussion of racism and fascism then gets reduced to the level a tarring Fun-da-mental with the same brush as the BNP - both equally intolerant and extremist'. CARF spoke to Aki Nawaz aka Propa-Gandhi about the politics of their music.



CARF: What role can music play in the anti-racist struggle? What contribution can Fun-da-mental make?

Aki Nawaz: We have come out from day one as an anti-racist band with a no-nonsense attitude. Two years down the line, people are being a bit more accommodating to our attitude and are respecting the message more, Fun-da-mental is just a band - it's no big deal. Most of the anti-racist movements and organisations are far more important than us - they are obviously on the frontline. We have irritated the BNP and a lot of liberal-minded people who talk about multi-culturalism but don't understand what it means. When we released the album we remained absolutely true. We're not interested in being successful in the 'music business', but in exposing things and telling people the way it is. Any layman on the street can say what Fun-da-mental say - we've just got a platform to say it. There are a lot of bands who say piss all and just see politics as a fashion. People say 'oh you're a political band' like it was a trend - we're not political in that sense - we are actually sincere, we want things to change. A lot of bands are political, they just don't want to go out there and say it because they're scared about record sales.

CARF: The video for your single Dogtribe was banned on daytime TV after it depicted a violent racist attack. Is your message getting through?

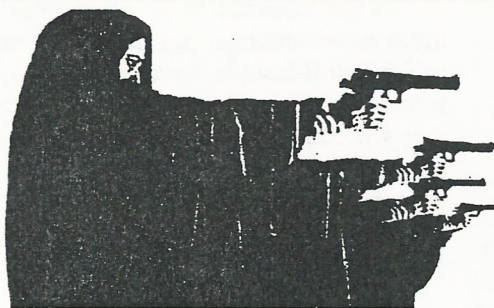
AN: The Dogtribe video should never have been banned - it should have been put on daytime TV purely so some young child could look at it and say 'well why has that guy just got beaten up by these idiots?' There were only three guys attacking on the video when in reality usually it's 10 or 20 beating up one guy, so it was a very responsible video. In the bigger scheme of things they are accommodating us a bit more cos they can't ignore us. There is obviously a positive element to getting banned because people go 'why are they getting banned?' It adds more substance to our argument.

CARF: So is the message more important than the music?

AN: Always has been. The platform means people take notice and take it seriously. The music in itself makes a statement - the clashes of culture, fighting. Some of the clashes are about who we've been, how we feel, how I feel as a second generation Asian and how the third generation feel. There's a lot of anger, a lot of beauty, humbleness, aggressiveness, frustration, sincerity and passion that makes the music what it is.

CARF: Your music combines rap with traditional Asian sounds and radical black/anti-racist lyrics. Is this a conscious attempt to promote African-Asian unity against racism?

AN: There should be unity between Afro-Caribbeans and Asians because the struggles are exactly the same. They should connect - one can help the other. As far as rap music is concerned, music belongs to anybody and everybody. There is a lot of rap music in Indian classical music - look at raags and the way they are recited - it can almost be seen as rap so there's a lot of connections. There's a lot of punkiness and underground elements in Indian classical music that don't get acknowledged. Music has no boundaries - it can all speak to each other. It's not a conscious thing that



we put together - that's just how it feels it should be done.

CARF: What do you think about the growth in Asian youth culture?

AN: Because of the bhangra scene, the stigma the Asian community in England used to attach to musicians has calmed down a bit. The reason for losing that stigma isn't the right reason - the music. Some parents have seen that Apache Indian has made loads of money and drives round in Mercs - the materialism has made it acceptable and that's the wrong reason. But at the end of the day there has to be a starting point. I have tremendous respect for the Asian Dub Foundation, Hustlers HC and The Kaliphz. I think it is improving because there's never really been an Asian youth culture before. Politically, we've been too complacent, especially our parents' generation who said 'hold back'. As new generations start learning about history it creates anger and you just say 'why', and you are going to say 'why' until you know that something's being done about it. There has to be some form of payback - imperialism and colonialism is all part of racism and until that is addressed, we have to get a lot harder, especially from a black perspective - even just from a human perspective.

CARF: Where do you stand on fundamentalism?

AN: We're living on the edge and that's why there's a massive rise in fanaticism especially amongst Muslims who are joining organisations like the Kalifah. I'm not saying that's wrong, but it's a result of other things that are failing them, they're being led that way because no-one is doing anything about what should be done. Then you get the whiteman going 'they're all fanatics' but he has put them in the position of having to be fanatics.

Fun-da-mental's album Seize The Time is released on Nation Records.

Criminalization Of Anti-Fascists In Germany

Dear Friends and Comrades!

We are writing with information about the attempt to criminalize the Autonome Antifa (M), an anti-fascist group in Lower Saxony, Germany. The Autonome Antifa (M) has its roots in the autonomist movement and was founded in 1990 as part of a campaign to reorganize the left in a reunified Germany. Our focus is anti-fascism, meaning not just that we are anti-Nazi, but rather that we work to fight the roots of fascism, capitalism, patriarchy, and racism. In the last five years we have worked continuously on local and nation-wide projects, including the AA/BO (Anti-Fascist Action/Nation-Wide Organization). Our coalition demonstrations, lecture series, and cultural events have helped establish anti-fascism as a meaningful force in the region.

This successful anti-fascist work has not gone unheeded. We are part of the undogmatic left and because we understand our anti-fascism as part of a larger leftist struggle, we stand necessarily in opposition to this system. The coalition work with the local Green Party, labour unions, youth groups, and other leftist organization has attracted particular attention from the state. It was made public in October 1991 that the Autonome Antifa (M) was being investigated according to Paragraph 129a (support of, propaganda for, or building a terrorist organization). The investigations are still underway, but the charges of 129a have been dropped in all but a few individual cases. The new justification for the investigation is Paragraph 129 (the building of a criminal organization). They are being carried out with extraordinary effort in terms of cost, personnel, and technical means. Among other things, state and federal agents have tapped phones and observed meetings, homes, and individuals - up to 24 hours a day - since 1991.

The investigations culminated in massive raids on members and alleged members of the Autonome Antifa (M) on July 5-6, 1994. During those two days, the homes, family members' homes, and workplaces of 17 people were searched, 28 locations in all. Truckloads of materials were confiscated, including internal papers, files, personal items, and several computers with a value of tens of thousands of dollars.

The group is faced with a three-pronged attack. We have been accused of disturbing the peace, a reference to several coalition demonstrations in a nation-wide campaign against fascist training centres. The second accusation is of coercion. The Autonome Antifa (M) has been able to prevent Nazi meetings from taking place by building up political pressure using legal means, tactics that apparently count as crimes. Our engagement with the history and situation of political prisoners in Germany is also viewed by the state as dangerous. Several individuals face charges under 129a. This law was created especially for combatting the left by attempting to link them, in the courts and in the press, with the RAF (Red Army Fraction).

As charges against individuals, the above accusations (excluding 129a) are fairly low-level. However, the actions were organized and carried

out by an anti-fascist group, leaving us open to Germany's anti-anti-fascist politics. We are facing charges according to 129, the building of a criminal organization, a law normally used to fight organized crime. It is similar to the RICO laws in the US. This law has hardly ever been used against a political group before in Germany and has severe minimum penalties.

At present, 25 people are directly accused of being members in a "criminal organization", the Autonome Antifa (M), and many more could be pulled into the case when the trial begins. We expect a long and expensive trial which could result in long sentences for the accused. The struggle will be carried out juristically and politically. We expect to be portrayed as organized criminals in the media and for the state to attempt to discredit our politics and scare off our coalition partners.

Of course the situation is serious, but even more outrageous when compared to the German justice system's blind eye to the right. News of fascist murders and Nazi attacks reach even the international press everyweek, but no investigation of this scale has ever been carried out over such a long period of time against any right-wing group.

International media coverage and pressure, like what the firebombings in Moelln and Solingen inspired, has been important in building political pressure in Germany. While trials against leftists in the 70s and 80s were regularly carried out with partially illegal methods, international trial watchers have helped to keep pressure on the courts to proceed legally in trials in the last few years. The most recent example is that of the Berlin 7, the so-called Kaendel Trial.

The court certainly would have come down harder on the defendants without the international attention the trial drew.

To win this case and to defend our politics against criminalization, we need strong international solidarity. We expect regional and nation-wide support committees to initiate an international solidarity campaign in the near future.

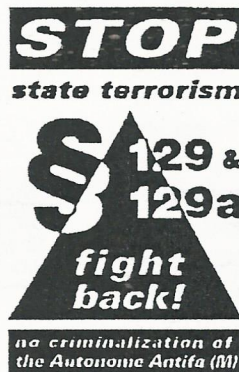
What we need right away is press coverage and international trial watchers. If you have contacts to the press or to other groups who might help organize the solidarity campaign, please pass this information on to them and have them contact us via post or e-mail. The trials should begin sometime in the summer of 1995 and will last for several months. The trial watchers should come for at least two days and can, of course, come for longer.

We will send more information when the actual charges are filed and when the date for the trials is set. Regular information will also be sent over the Internet when the trials begin.

**No criminalization of anti-fascist resistance!
Build up international solidarity!**

Autonome Antifa (M) organized in the AA/BO

Autonome Antifa (M) c/o Buchladen
Rote Strasse 10
37073 Göttingen
Germany



No Platform...

The following is an edited version of an article that appeared in the January/February 1994 edition of CARF's (Campaign Against Racism and Fascism) publication. It was written to dispel the myths that surround the issue of freedom of speech. Specifically, the article was a response to a couple of discussions about fascism that aired on two British TV stations. The media there, much as here, felt that upholding racists' so-called "free speech" was more important than considering the rights of their victims. The freedom of speech rights extended to the nazis amounted to nothing more than an unchallenged platform for their twisted ideas. The article is relevant because it confronts widely-held mistaken beliefs about freedom of speech, and it speaks directly to the Western corporate media who, because of either bias or ignorance, provide nazis with the means to recruit young people, terrorize their targeted victims, and further their agenda. CARF responded directly to arguments put forth by Britain's Channel 4's commissioning editor for religion and talks, Nicholas Fraser.

Fraser argues: "Anti-racists want a broadcasting ban imposed on all parties or individuals who they consider to be racist".

CARF says: Not true. CARF is opposed to all state and media bans which only serve the interests of censorship. To equate 'No platform' with bans is to interpret 'No platform' mechanically, rather than politically. 'No platform' does not mean a ban on reporting or investigating fascists and fascism. We are not saying don't give them a platform in the sense of banishing them from the screens. What we are saying is that journalists should be aware of the power the medium of television gives the fascists to propagandise and present their violent, anti-democratic creed in acceptable terms.

One of the most powerful weapons we have at our disposal in unmasking the nazis, and educating the wider public about fascism's undemocratic nature, is television. But television aids the fascists when it gives the nazis an open platform to put forward the palatable, respectable image that they want to present. Denying them this opportunity is what we mean by 'No platform'.

The first duty of any decent journalist is not merely to uphold freedom of speech, but to protect it from being debased and degraded.

It's easy to uphold freedom of speech - you just give licence to everyone to say what they like. But to protect it from being abused is to take on a more questioning and self-critical role in terms of how such abuse could lead to an abuse of the first freedom, the freedom to life itself.



In the absence of an awareness of these issues amongst journalists, the only tool we, anti-fascists, have at our disposal is to refuse to participate in programmes that we consider irresponsible and dangerous. That is our responsibility. Rather than see this as a threat, broadcasters should be thankful that there are groups in society acting as a watch dog on them.

"Anti-racists won't sit with the BNP (British Nationalist Party) or debate with them."

True. Fascism is not a set of ideas that can be politely discussed - it is a violent, undemocratic creed. As anti-fascists, we want to defeat fascism. By debating with the fascists, rather than relegating them to the margins of society where they belong, we are helping to bring fascist views into the mainstream of political debate. Our business is to deny them the oxygen of publicity in as much as they deny black citizens the right to breathe whatever fresh air there is in this country.

"You cannot defend free societies by means of censorship."

Fascism has always been about censorship and the denial of freedom of speech for all those considered outside the fascists' biological/cultural constituency. Anti-fascists don't want censorship. Two points need to be borne in mind, however. First, freedom of speech also brings with it certain responsibilities, in particular the responsibility not to violate other people's freedoms. Secondly, and following from this, broadcasters must realize that fascists manipulate liberal arguments of freedom of speech in order to propagandise and to attack the democratic right of others. Weak, ineffectual interviewing of the fascists by journalist not equipped with the facts only gives the fascists a platform to propagandise - and all in the name of free speech. If you can't take the trouble to interview them properly, don't interview them at all.

"Allowing such people to be interviewed gives them a platform, confers them respectability or legitimacy, argue anti-racists. It needn't and that depends on how the programme is made."

...For Propaganda

Toronto Anti-Fascist Stabbed, Nearly Dies

Early on Saturday, February 4, there was confrontation between a group of anti-racists and some neo-nazis at Kennedy subway station in Toronto. Two anti-racists and two fascists were injured in the fighting. One anti-racist came close to dying after he was stabbed once in the arm, three times in the stomach, and had an artery in his neck slashed open. Police have arrested and charged two fascists. They are:

- Adrian Kaddie, 22, of Weir Crescent in Scarboro, charged with attempted murder.
- Kristian Stefan Brandes, 19, of West Hill, charged with having dangerous weapons, assault with a weapon, and aggravated assault.

The police and media were quick to condemn the anti-racists involved in this confrontation, depicting them as a "mob" which had preyed upon a group of presumably helpless fascists. Never mind the fact that these fascists nearly killed an anti-fascist comrade. One clear aim of such disinformation and media smear-tactics is to make anti-racist and anti-fascist activists afraid, to cause splits within the movement, to make people shy away from militant and confrontational tactics.

To put this into a wider context, let us cite the example of Berlin, Germany after the April 4, 1992 death of Gerhard Kaindl. When a group of anti-fascists stormed into a dinner meeting of a group of neo-nazi leaders, one of the fascists, Gerhard Kaindl, died after being stabbed. The anti-fascists had not planned on this happening, and many people in Berlin's anti-fascist scene distanced themselves from the action. That was wrong to do. Militant actions are justified and necessary, and sometimes mistakes may happen, but that does not invalidate the method.

Another example is the case of Kieran Frazier Knutson, an anti-fascist activist in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. When a pair of nazi boneheads attempted to disrupt an event organized by a progressive student organization, Kieran defended himself after being attacked by one of the fascists. The fascist, who was armed with brass knuckles, was never brought to trial; Kieran, however, faces a

potential 10-year sentence on assault charges when his case goes to trial this April. The media and police in Minneapolis have been trying to say that Kieran is a criminal, but people haven't been fooled and he has received a lot of support.

It's not easy to carry out militant anti-fascist politics at the street level. There are bound to be confrontations, and our friends and comrades could be injured. At the same time, if fascists suffer bodily harm, the anti-racist movement will be confronted with increased repression. We must be willing to deal with this repression, not be silenced by it.

We also have to be fully aware of the fact that both the media and the police have a vested interest in trying to make militant activists appear like violent criminals in order to lessen public support for their politics. Indeed, we must articulate these politics well, if we wish to gain support. Distancing ourselves

from our politics is not the correct approach, however.

But to begin with, we need unity and solidarity within our own ranks. Therefore we, Arm The Spirit, give our full support to the anti-racists involved in the confrontation in Toronto's Kennedy subway station. And we are both sad and angry that one of the anti-racist comrades was seriously injured and nearly killed.

Nazis should not be allowed any public space. They must be driven out of our communities. They are the ones that should live in fear and isolation, not Blacks, Jews, Asians, gays and lesbians, and other peoples targeted by fascist violence.

Stop the criminalization of the anti-fascist movement!
Attack the nazis everywhere!

Arm The Spirit - February 9, 1995

Minneapolis Anti-Fascist's Trial Delayed - Again

Kieran F. Knutson, 23, an anti-fascist activist and member of the Love and Rage Revolutionary Anarchist Federation, was charged with felony assault for defending himself against a neo-nazi bonehead. The incident happened in October 1993 when a pair of neo-nazis disrupted an anti-fascist rally organized by a progressive student organization on the University of Minnesota campus. The fascist, Dan Simmer, starting swinging at Kieran with a pair of brass knuckles, but was soon stopped with a flashlight blow to the head. Although Simmer was arrested on the spot, his charges were dropped. Several weeks later, however, Kieran was charged with a felony and now faces up to 10 years in prison because of his act of self-defense.

Activists in Minneapolis, Minnesota have organized an excellent defence campaign for Kieran. Before each court appearance, demonstrations have been held, and there have been several coordinated phone-blitz and letter-writing

campaigns directed at the office of the over-zealous county prosecutor, Mike Freeman. On January 27, 1995, about 40 anti-fascists temporarily occupied Mike Freeman's office and demanded a personal meeting. But he still seems determined to put Kieran behind bars. On Monday, January 30, the trial was delayed for the sixth consecutive time. A new trial date has now been set for March 6.

We encourage everyone to support Kieran. His conviction would be a direct criminalization of the anti-fascist movement. The state does not want people to fight back against fascists, but Kieran should be applauded for his action, not jailed for it.

For more information, contact:

Anti-Fascist Defence Committee, P.O.
Box 7075, Minneapolis, Minnesota,
55407 U.S.A.

E-mail: jolson@polisci.umn.edu



True, to some extent. An investigative documentary, for instance, can undermine the respectability of fascists by producing hard facts about their criminal actions, involvement in violence, anti-democratic nature, etc. Unfortunately though, the present vogue within television is to debate fascism, rather than investigate the fascists. The favoured format is a studio discussion with fascists on one hand and anti-fascists on the other. Within this approach, the presenter becomes neutral; he or she merely adjudicates between two opposing views which, under the spurious rubric of balance, are equally valid. Racist myths are allowed to pass as one sort of fact, while anti-racists who challenge them are allowed to present another 'version' of the facts. In the world that the media creates, all facts are equal.

"Broadcasters must be free to cover racism in the way they thinkfit, even if mistakes are made."

Rubbish. Why should broadcasters be free to make mistakes and not accept legitimate criticism? This is the worst type of non-accountability and arrogance.

We have printed this brief article to expose the myth of freedom of speech. The fascists who rally behind this myth are the same people who would deny you your most basic rights: the rights to life and liberty. Freedom of speech exists for the privileged. To the disenfranchised it is simply another means of exercising control.

Recently a documentary aired on CTV called "Hearts of Hate". I suppose it was the film-maker's attempt to provide an

unbiased look at extreme right-wing groups active in Canada. Unfortunately, by not taking a critical stance in opposition to fascist politics, the documentary came off as a right-wing public relations piece. It is impossible to be unbiased when it comes to fascism. If you do not take an active stance against fascists, then you are certainly responsible for aiding their cause. The Canadian media and liberal film-makers like to tell us that this is a tolerant country where all views, no matter how distasteful, are allowed to be heard. But when fascists are given unrestricted and unchallenged access to the media,

while at the same time denying their victims a voice to respond, we take another step towards totalitarianism. If and when the day comes when fascists take real political power, do you really think that they'll be extending freedom of speech to their enemies?

Hopefully this article will also encourage you to examine the local media and their manipulation of the facts. Several recent events have made the headlines with the usual doses of propaganda and disinformation. Be aware that it is the mainstream media's role to help maintain the racist capitalist state.

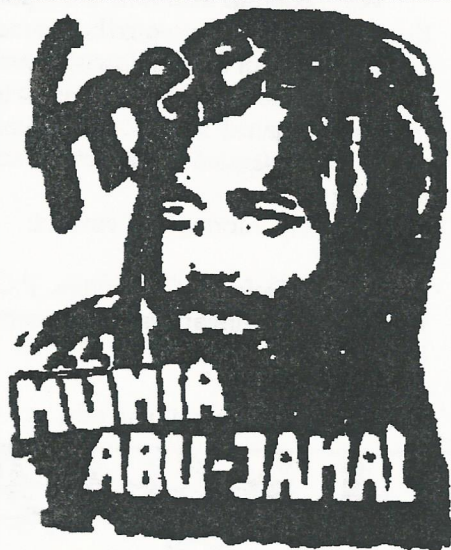
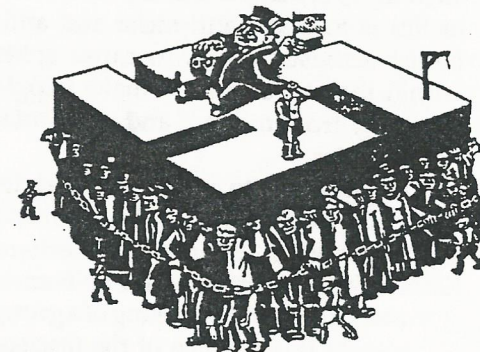
Heritage Front Leader Convicted Of Assault

On February 23, 1995, the leader of the racist Heritage Front (HF) was convicted of assault in a Toronto court. The charge stemmed from a downtown brawl when a group of local fascists, angered by the trashing of the home of HF big-mouth Gary Schipper after an Anti-Racist Action (ARA) demo on June 11, 1993, went to pick a fight with some anti-racists. Although the fascists were chased off, one anti-racist had his jaw smashed after being clubbed with a flashlight by HF leader Wolfgang Droege.

Rather than focussing on fascist violence, the Crown went out of its way to portray ARA as "criminals", and Justice David McCombs went out of his way to call the group a bunch of "thugs". One of Droege's star witnesses included George Burdi, former leader of the Canadian arm of the fascist paramilitary organization the Church of the Creator (COTC). Basically, Droege and his co-defendant Pete Mitrevski, who was acquitted of weapons

charges, argued that they were justified in using force in order to rescue a fallen "comrade", Adrien Galineas, a nazi skin was getting his ass kicked for trying to assault some anti-racists on the street. The judge, in the end, agreed - but was forced to convict Droege anyway, saying that he should have just struck the anti-racist once!

Just further proof that the anti-fascist struggle will not be won in the courts. Droege will be sentenced on March 9. It's not clear how long Wolfie will be sent to jail. The longer the better, we say!



Mumia Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther and a respected black journalist from Philadelphia, is currently on Death Row in a Pennsylvania, USA prison. Mumia was framed in 1982 on charges he shot and killed a policeman. The real thing is, though, that Mumia, the "voice of the voiceless", was a thorn in the side of Philadelphia's racist police department, particularly because of his coverage of the 1978 police bombing of the MOVE collective's house, which resulted in the deaths of 11 people, including 5 children.

With the election of right-wing governor Tom Ridge last November, it now looks like Pennsylvania will resume executing prisoners. If they do, Mumia could

be one of the first. It's important that people come together now and start to act. We cannot allow the amerikan authorities to execute Mumia!

On Saturday, March 11, there will be a rally at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor St. W. There is a \$5.00 cover charge to help raise money for Mumia's legal defense. Speakers include activists from the Black Action Defense Committee, Prison News Service, and the Partisan Defense Committee. Please come show your support for Mumia!

**Abolish the racist death penalty!
Free all political prisoners!**